

ANGIE CHEN BUTTON



The State of Texas
House of Representatives



August 6, 2012

Friends,

I hope everyone enjoyed the month of July. Summer is winding down and families and educators are preparing for the upcoming school year. If you have a child or know of one that will be attending college in Austin, I would like to invite them to apply for an internship in my capitol office. For those interested, please contact my Chief of Staff Amanda Jeffers at Amanda.Jeffers@house.state.tx.us.

Sales Tax Holiday

Texas shoppers get a break from state and local sales taxes on August 17th, 18th and 19th for the state's annual tax holiday. Most clothing, footwear, school supplies and backpacks priced under \$100 are exempt from sales taxes. The average shopper can save about \$8 for every \$100 spent on qualified items. For a complete list of exempt items, please visit: http://www.window.state.tx.us/taxinfo/taxpubs/tx98_490/index.html

The West Nile Virus

There has been a higher than usual number of human West Nile cases in Texas this year due to the warm winter and recent rains, particularly in the North Texas region. Approximately 80 percent of the cases reside in Dallas, Collin, Tarrant and Denton counties.

According to the Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS), people should use insect repellent when outdoors and avoid going outside at dusk and dawn to reduce the risk of contracting West Nile virus.

Humans can contract West Nile virus from a mosquito bite. Infected mosquitoes get the virus from feeding on infected birds and mammals. Milder forms of the virus include fever, headache, muscle and bone aches, nausea, and drowsiness. In more severe cases, the virus can cause serious illness or death. West Nile neuroinvasive disease symptoms include stiff neck, visual problems, body tremors, mental confusion, memory loss and seizures.

The number of cases of West Nile virus in Texas fluctuates from year to year depending on a variety of factors including the weather, the number of birds and mosquitoes that spread the virus, and human behavior. The season can last up until the first hard freeze of the year.

People over 50 years old and those with compromised immune systems are at a higher risk of becoming seriously ill when they become infected with the virus. If people have symptoms that cause them concern, they should contact their healthcare provider.

The city of Garland has information on Garland cases and steps that can be taken to avoid contracting West Nile at <http://www.ci.garland.tx.us/gov/hk/health/services/nile.asp>.

During my first session in the Texas Legislature, I passed a bill that saved jurisdictions money while protecting Texans from the dangers of misapplied pesticides and potentially disease-ridden mosquitoes. This legislation was brought to me by the City of Garland and I was happy to carry it. I am currently preparing legislation for the upcoming session and I would love to hear your ideas on ways we can improve our area.

Fourth Annual Senior Awareness Day

In partnership with the City of Garland, I held the Fourth Annual Senior Awareness Day at the Atrium of the Granville Arts Center in Downtown Garland. Senior Awareness Day included over 50 exhibitors from various government agencies, non-profits, organizations, and businesses serving seniors. Many seniors were able to come and have their Medicare questions answered without long waits on the phone or in line. We had hundreds of people from across North Texas attend Senior Awareness Day this year. In addition to our fantastic exhibitors we had great entertainment provided by the Irish Session band, the Spectacular Senior Follies Class Act tap dancers, students from the Wang Tao Kung Fu School, and the Hella Shriner Clowns of Rowlett. Thank you to all the wonderful exhibitors and entertainers who made Senior Awareness Day such a resounding success.

I would also like to thank the hard work and dedication of the Senior Awareness Day Planning Committee which took the lead in planning this spectacular event. The Senior Awareness Day Planning Committee is made up of members of my Seniors Roundtable who volunteer their time to plan and carry out Senior Awareness Day each year. Senior Awareness Day is not just **for** Seniors, but it is planned and staffed primarily **by** Seniors. Thank you to committee members Jerry Nichols, Sary Cheng, Bob Hook, Ernie Eberle, Joanne Stephens, Ginger Hubbard, Lottie Randle, Tony Torres, Ruth Bowling, Jim Sykora, and Jan Woody and special thanks to Zach Bullard for designing the 2012 Senior Awareness Day Flier. There were numerous elected officials in attendance this year including Garland Mayor Ron Jones, Richardson Mayor Bob Townsend, and GISD Board President Linda Griffin. I appreciate everyone who attended and enjoyed meeting many new friends and seeing many old ones. I hope to see everyone again at next year's Senior Awareness Day.



Enjoying the wonderful entertainment at Senior Awareness Day.



Here I am presenting our wonderful volunteers with resolutions of appreciation. Pictured from left to right: Ruth Bowling, Jan Woody, Sary Cheng, and Tony Torres.



Here I am with members of the Garland Fire Department who were available to share information and answer questions at Senior Awareness Day.

It is an honor to serve as your State Representative. Please let me know if I can ever be of assistance.

Sincerely,

Angie Chen Button

If you would like to be added or removed from this mailing, please e-mail Angie.Button@house.state.tx.us.